THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) There is indeed a general preference amongst the doctors for posting at locations which are closer to urban areas. Therefore, there is some shortage of critical human resources in public health delivery system in rural areas in some states in the country and consequently adequate medical treatment is sometimes not available.

To remedy this situation, the Government has operationalised the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in all states. Under NRHM, states have undertaken comprehensive rationalization of Human Resources (HR) policies to optimize utilisation of available HR. States have also deployed innovative strategies including contractual appointments, multi-skilling trainings, pooling of doctors etc. to ensure availability of critical skills at all levels. The training capacity in states for critical cadres has been augmented and norms for post graduate trainings have been amended to allow higher intake. The availability of services in underserved areas is also being augmented through innovative pro poor partnerships with private providers. All these steps have improved the availability of adequate medical treatment in rural areas.

Purchase of substandard Unani medicines

2355. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard Unani medicines are being procured at exorbitant rates;

(b) whether it is also a fact that genuine medicines are available at lower rates;

(c) whether Government is aware that there is a scam in the procurement of Unani medicines; and

(d) if so, whether Government would order an enquiry into the whole matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. Unani drugs are procured only from drug manufacturers having Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Certificate to ensure quality of drugs. Under the Department of AYUSH, Unani drugs are being procured by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) and ten Unani CGHS Dispensaries either from Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL), which is a Public Sector Undertaking or through open tenders on All India Basis.

Procurement of Unani drugs by State Governments under the Hospitals and Dispensaries scheme of the Department of AYUSH is to be made through IMPCL, State Government Pharmacies and Cooperative Societies.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Complaints on medical system

2356. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received in respect of Ayurveda, Unani and Naturopathy including CGHS in Delhi during the last two years and the current year, so far; and

(b) what action has been taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Polio affected children

†2357. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of children affected from polio, State-wise; and

(b) the progress made in the direction of polio eradication and the measures being taken to do away with the prejudice against polio drops prevailing in a particular community?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) State-wise detailed information on polio affected children is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) To remove the prejudice of all communities against polio drops, efforts through mass media and inter-personal communication are being made by the polio partners in UP and Bihar — UNICEF, CORE and WHO, More than 5500 community mobilisers have been deployed by UNICEF and CORE to create awareness among mothers, religious leaders and other influencers through meetings, rallies, health camps and mosque announcements. As a result of these efforts the level of resistance to OPV has been decreasing rapidly over the past few years. In these areas the number of households overtly refusing Oral Polio Vaccine is the lowest ever. Not only has the overall number of resistant households reduced, but the resistance is now more sporadic and significantly less clustered. In May 2009, less than 0.1 % of the 3.3 crore households in Uttar Pradesh and less than 0.1 % of 1.59 crore households in Bihar refused vaccination.

Statement

Number of Polio cases by State, 2008-09

State/UT's	2008	2009*
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	305	97

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.